

CAPSULE SUMMARY

F-1-8

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Point of Rocks

Private

1912

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church was built in 1912 as a subsidiary chapel to St. Paul's Church (F-1-130; National Register). Its design features unusual battered buttresses at the corners of the main section, the corner bell tower, and between the side elevation bays. The tower has entrances on both the north and west elevations, with etched glass transoms. The windows and doorways have Gothic arches and a circular window is located in the west elevation. Since 1978, a concrete block addition has been built on the south side of the church. The original building of the church was begun in 1887 near the Potomac River in Point of Rocks, a date commemorated in the inscribed brownstone block at the tower base of the present building. The 1889 flood which destroyed Johnstown, Pennsylvania, as well as a wide area of the Mid-Atlantic Region, also submerged Point of Rocks and the unfinished Holy Trinity Church. After a 23-year hiatus, the church was begun again on the present site above the flood plain. It is significant for the streamlined Gothic Revival architectural style, possibly the design of an architect who is not yet identified, and for its role in the development of the town of Point of Rocks.

F-1-8

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Point of Rocks
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function & Use
Religion/religious facility/church

Known Design Source: None

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Holy Trinity Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South side Kanahwa Ave

Sixth E.D. 1

CITY, TOWN

Pt of Rocks

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Frederick

STATE

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT☒ OWNERSHIP☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Holy Trinity Church

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Pt of Rocks

___ VICINITY OF

Md

STATE, zip code
21777**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

F-1-1

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Holy Trinity Church is an unusual one story brick Gothic church, which faces west from the south side of Kanahwa Avenue on a hill overlooking Point of Rocks. The church is three bays wide and four bays deep. Two main entrance twin paneled doors with etched and stained glass triangular transom and triple header arches are located in the belfry tower on the first level.

A square brick belfry with triple Gothic arches on each side extends two stories in the northwest corner and is supported with brick buttresses.

Small segmented stained and etched glass Gothic windows with bull's-eye type decoration in each corner, occupy the remaining bays on each side of the building.

Small brick buttresses are located between each bay on the north and south sides. A circular stained glass window is located in the west gable.

The steeply sloping front gable roof is covered with patterned slate and is attached to the structure by a plain boxed cornice.

The entire building is constructed on a low stuccoed stone foundation. A corbeled brick chimney rises from the southeast corner of the building.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

T-1-2

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1887

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Churches of Point of Rocks, having all been built at approximately at the same time, show a variety of styles and interpretations of the late nineteenth century.

The Holy Trinity Church, built in 1887 is a uniquely rural version of a Gothic chapel complete with buttresses.

The structure is a striking site located on a hill overlooking Point of Rocks.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

F-1-8

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cherilyn Widell, Sites Analyst

1978

ORGANIZATION

Frederick County Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

694-1063

STREET & NUMBER

Winchester Hall

Frederick, Md

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE yes x no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

and/or common First Baptist Church of Point of Rocks

2. Location

street & number 3719 Kanawha Avenue not for publicationcity, town Point of Rocks vicinity of congressional district 6thstate Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> x occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<u> </u> x building(s)	<u> </u> x private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> x religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> x yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> x not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name First Baptist Church of Point of Rocks

street & number P.O. Box 125 telephone no.: city, town Point of Rocks state and zip code Md. 21777

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 950street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 772city, town Frederick state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MHT Inventory of Historic Properties F-1-8

date 1978 federal x state county local

depository for survey records Md. SHPO

city, town Crownsville state Md.

7. Description

Survey No. F-1-8

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (currently First Baptist Church of Point of Rocks) is a one-story brick church built in 1912 on the south side of Kanawha Avenue about one-half block east of Ballenger Creek Pike in Point of Rocks, Frederick County, Maryland. The church has a northwest corner bell tower with two sets of entrance doors facing east and north. The corners of the bell tower and the main sanctuary section of the church have distinctive battered buttresses. The same buttresses demarcate the four bays on the north and south elevations. A one-story concrete block addition adjoins the entire length of the south elevation. The church has a brownstone block at the northwest corner of the bell tower with the name "Holy Trinity Chapel" and the date 1887. This date refers to the original building located near the edge of the C&O Canal and the B&O Railroad tracks in Point of Rocks which was destroyed by a flood in 1889 before its completion. Miss Cornelia Hickman, a 92-year-old resident of Point of Rocks, remembers the date of the current building's erection as 1912, the same year in which her father built the house in which she still lives (see F-1-183). Land records confirm that the site of the brick church was purchased in 1912 by the Church Extension Society of the Diocese of Maryland and the deed states the building was being erected at the time of the purchase.

The church is laid in 6:1 common bond with the principal gable elevation facing west. The tower at the northwest corner breaks the line of the gable slope. The facade of the sanctuary section has a circular window with colored glass panes outlined by three receding courses of headers. Below the window are two Gothic arched narrow windows with etched central panels surrounded by colored glass and brownstone sills. The tower has three narrow Gothic arched openings to the bell chamber and Gothic arched transoms above each of the double-doored entrances in the west and north sides. The transoms have the same glass as in the main windows. The roof of the church is covered with composition, replacing the patterned slate pictured in the original inventory photos in 1978. The tower roof is hipped and originally terminated in a cross, which has been removed. Crosses were also located in 1978 at the gable peaks of the east and west ends; they have also been removed. The roof has extended eaves covered with tongue-and-groove soffits. A projecting vestry is located at the southeast corner, adjoining the concrete block addition built after 1978. An interior chimney with a corbeled cap is located near the vestry projection. The exposed stone foundation on the south and east sides has been plastered with cement. The interior of the church was inaccessible for this survey.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-1-8

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1912

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church is moderately significant for its architecture, a streamlined Gothic Revival style which may have been designed by an architect who has yet to be identified. The unusual battered buttresses are distinctive in the design, although most of the other elements of the building's exterior are fairly common. It shares the typical plan of many rural churches of the late 19th and early 20th century in Frederick County, having a corner tower with the entrances, and a rectangular main section with Gothic arched windows and doorways. The church is also of moderate significance in the context of the development of the town of Point of Rocks. The original Holy Trinity Chapel was built beginning in 1887 for the convenience of parishioners of St. Paul's Church (F-1-130; National Register), located about 1-1/2 miles north on Ballenger Creek Pike. The 1870's through about 1920 was a period of moderate expansion in the town and the chapel was apparently meant both to facilitate attendance and perhaps eventually to replace St. Paul's Church, which had been considerably damaged during the Civil War. In 1912, houses were beginning to be built along the present Kanawha Avenue and the location of the imposing brick church underscored the shift of non-commercial building activity away from the original main streets, Clay and Commerce Streets.

The chapel was built, according to a Centennial address at St. Paul's in 1943 by Reverend B. Duval Chambers, near the Potomac River, where much of the town's commercial, residential, and civic activity was centered, along the routes of the canal and the railroad which were its main economic bases. Before the chapel was finished, however, the 1889 flood inundated the town, submerging the church up to the eaves. Rev. Chambers stated that this was the reason for the relocation to the hill above the flood plain, but the cause of the 23-year gap between the two events is unclear. It is possible that the congregation decided to continue at St. Paul's during the rebuilding of the town. The church lot was purchased from Dr. Richard W. Trapnell, a well-known local physician, who arranged in the deed for a burial vault under the church for his family members. Since 1974, the First Baptist Church of Point of Rocks has owned the building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-1-8

Haines, Elsie White. "Sidelights", Frederick News, August 7, 1964

Hickman, Cornelia W., personal interview, June 21, 1993

Land Records of Frederick County

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.5 acreQuadrangle name Point of Rocks, Md.-Va.Quadrangle scale 1:24000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA

Zone	Easting							Northing	

B

Zone	Easting							Northing	

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Concurrent with Tax Map 108A, parcel identified "1st Baptist Church of P of R, 950/772".

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date June 1993street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958city or town Frederick state MD 21701

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2000

F-1-8
Holy Trinity Church
Point of Rocks
Private

1887

The Holy Trinity Church is a unusual one story brick Gothic church set on a hill overlooking Point of Rocks. The church is three bays wide and four bays deep, a square brick belfry with triple Gothic arches on each side extends two stories in the northwest corner and is supported with brick buttresses. Small segmented stained and etched glass Gothic windows with bulls eye type decoration in each corner are located in each window bay around the building.

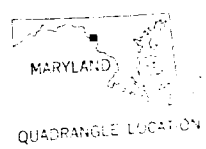
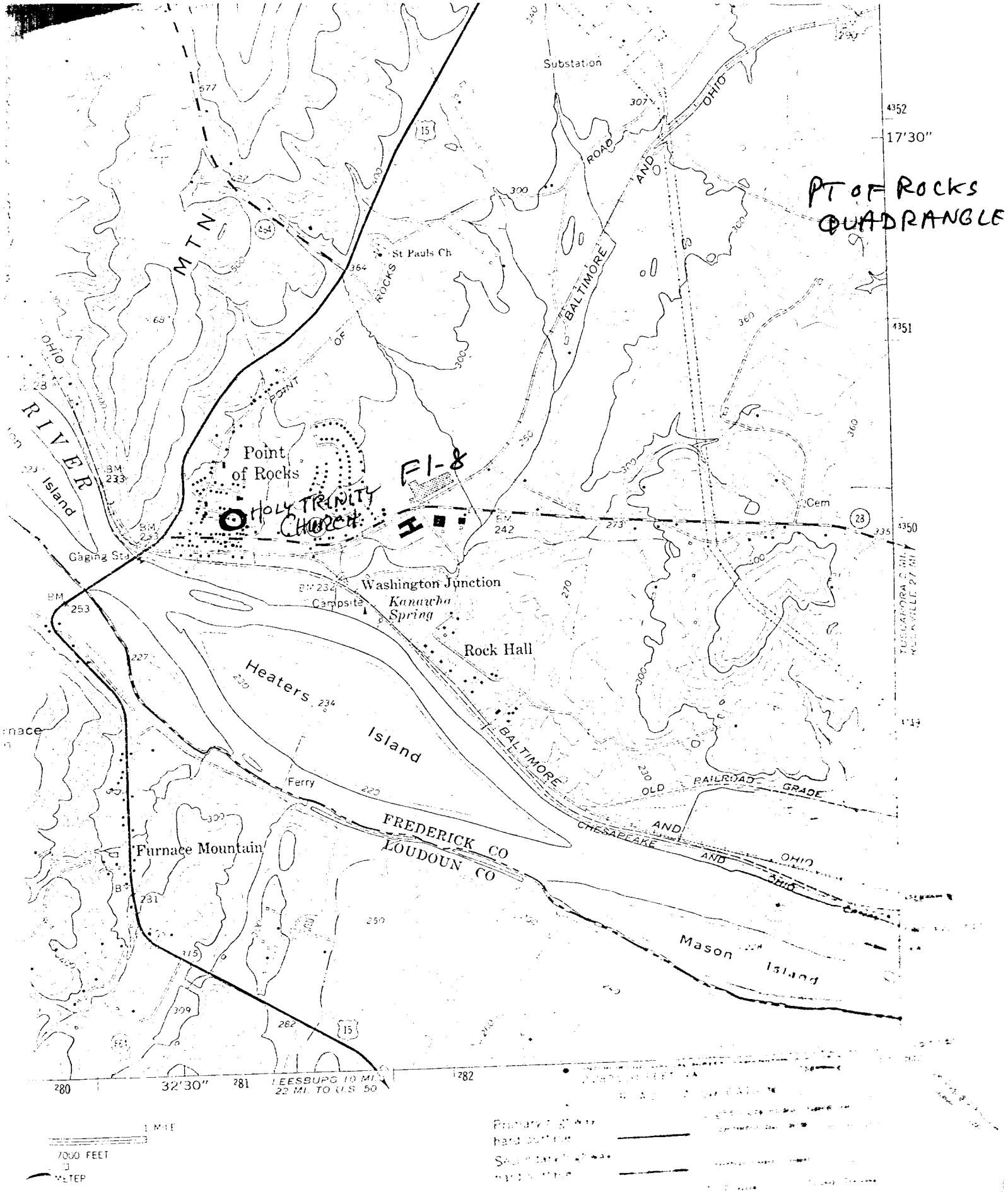
The Holy Trinity Church , built in 1887 is a uniquely rural version of a Gothic chapel.

F-1-8

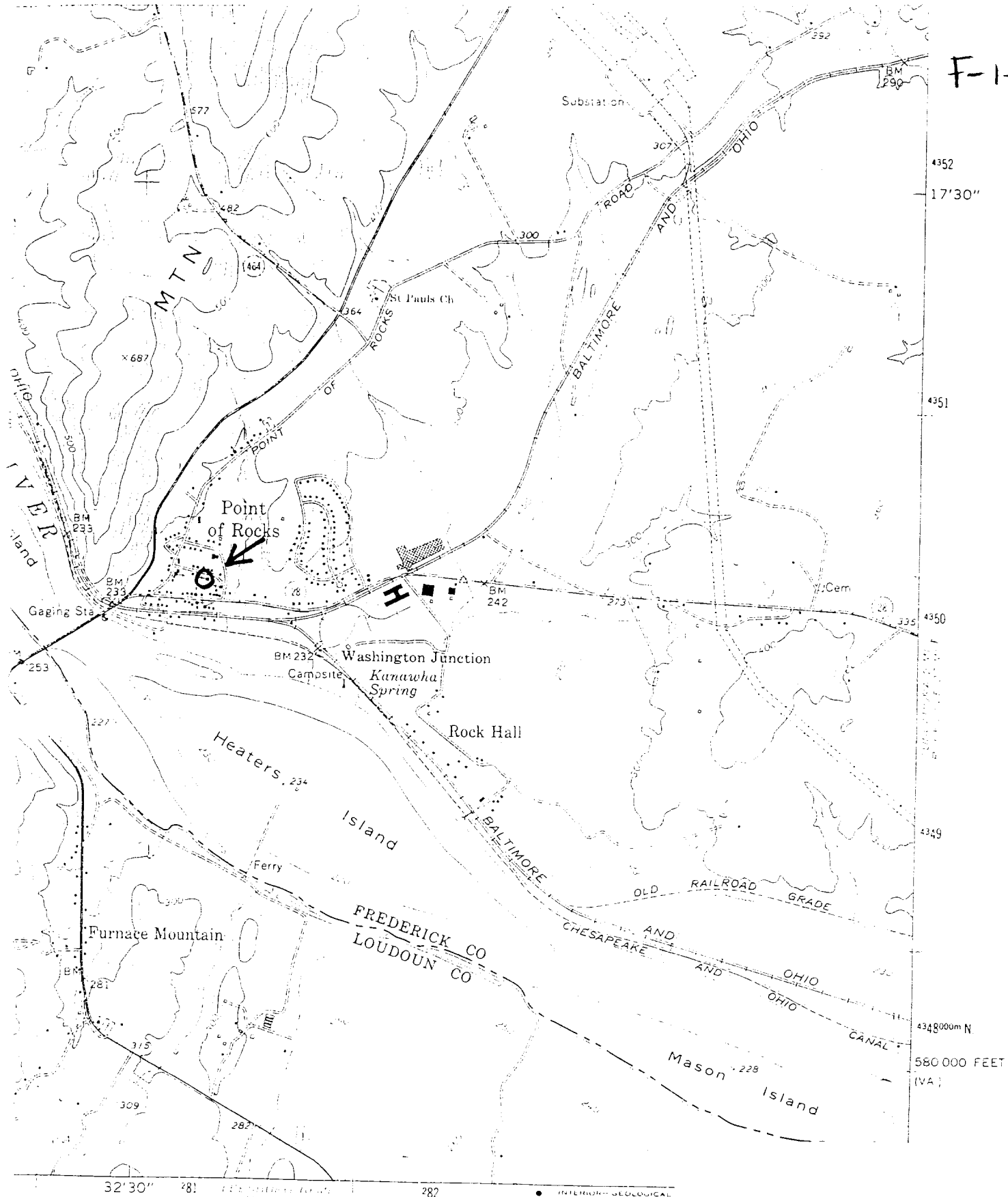
Cost

Miscellaneous

[illegible]



F-1-8



1 MILE

Primary highway,
hard surface
Secondary highway,
hard surface

Interstate Route



F-1-8
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Frederick County
USGS Point of Rocks, Md.-Va.
1:24000





F 1-8

Hike Trail at Tanager, Tanager

Tanager at Tanager, Tanager County

Photo: Tanager Tanager

June 12 -

New York - New York, New York, New York

Northwest corner of New York

2/2



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

CEN 3/78 F-1-8

S/S KANAWHA AVE POINT OF ROCKS

WEST AND NORTH ELEVATIONS



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

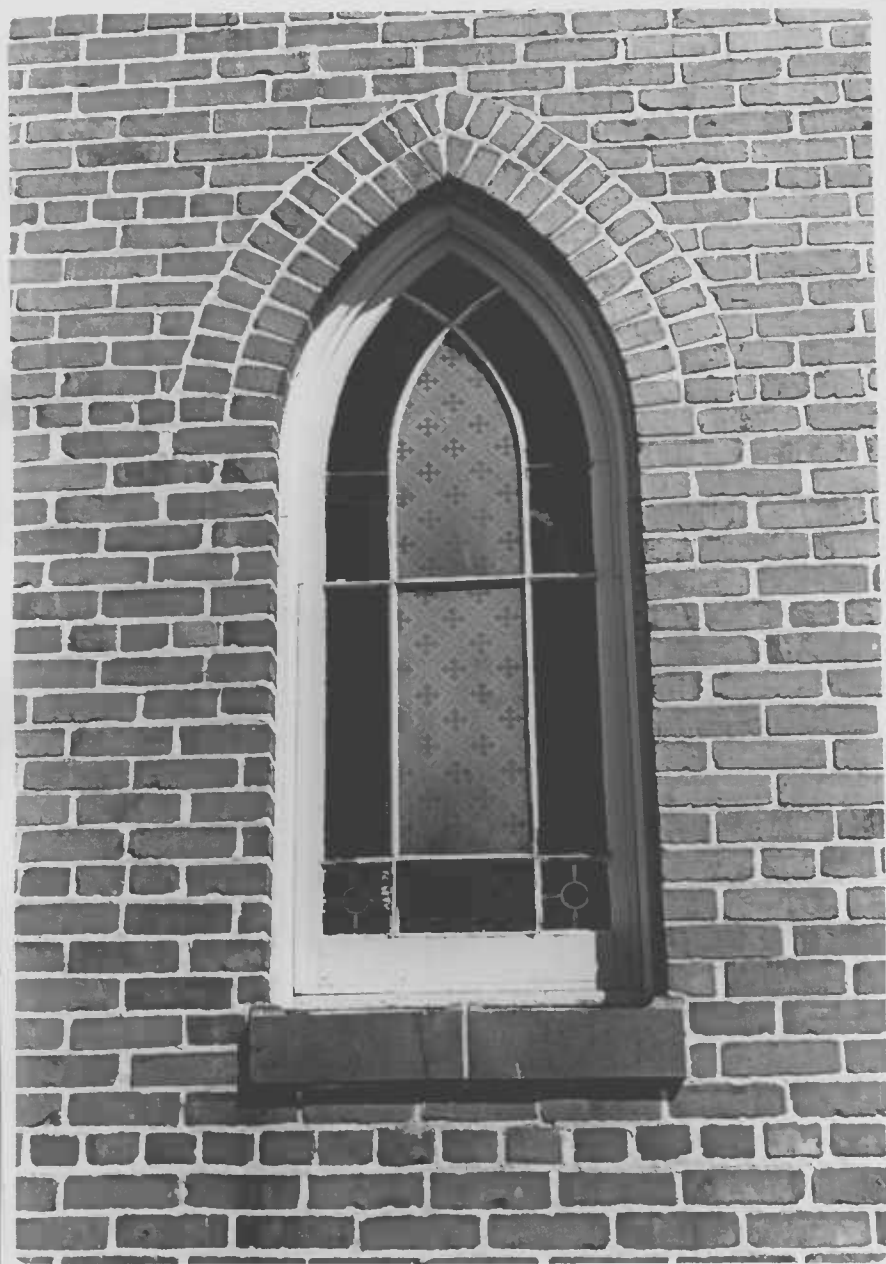
CEW 3/78

S/S KANAWHA AVE

POINT OF ROCKS

North ELEVATION

F-1-8



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

F-1-8

S/S KANAWHA AVE

CEW 3/78

POINT OF ROCKS

WINDOW DETAIL